(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to appoint special officers on a district-wise basis in areas where there is high density of weavers and handloom workers;

(b) whether such districts have been identified in the country;

(c) if so, the names of such districts and the respective number of people who are dependent on the handloom sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) to what extent the welfare benefits meant for such sections have reached them; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN); (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

(d) and (e) The Government of India extends financial assistance under developmental and welfare schemes, to the State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for the benefit of handloom weavers. These schemes include Project Package Scheme, Market Development Assistance Scheme, Worksh'ed-cum-Housing Scheme, Health Package Scheme etc. During the last 3 years central assistance of Rs. 41.02 crores was released to the State of Andhra Piadesh under these schemes.

Satyam Committee's Recommendations on Empowering Employees

4866. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Salam Committee report on the draft textile policy has recommended empowering the employees recruit and retrench workers with permission of the State Government;

(b) whether Government have accepted this recommendation and incorporated it in the new textile policy; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to ensure the legitimate interests
of the workers in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN); (a) to (c) An Expert Committee was Constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri S.R. Sathyam to, *inter-alia,* review the impact of the existing Textile policy and suggest policy measures for the

industry to focus on changes resulting from over-all trade policy reforms. The Committee drew up its report after wide consultation with institutions and organisations representing thier various sectors of the industry, including State Governments. The Committee has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Committee mostly focus on measures to secure progressive increase in production and exportable surplus focusing on HRD and protecting appropriately the interest of workers, removal of technological obsolescence, strengthen the competitive framework of all segments of the textile industry, removal of avoidable regulations and facilitation for orderly transition of the industry to that of a market oriented forward looking industry. The New Textile policy, that takes the Expert Committee Report into account, is likley to be finalised shortly.

Privatisation of Spinning Mills

4867. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of spinning mills in the country alongwith location thereof, State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that some spinning mills have been privatised;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith their names; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government to set up spinning mills in the country particularly in the State of Uttar pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OFTEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) As on 31.3.2000, there are 1565 cotton/ man-made fibre spinning mills (Non-SSI) in the country as per details given below:

State/Union Territory	No. of Spinning Mills
Andhra Pradesh	96
Assam	6
Bihar	8
Delhi	0
Goa	1
Gujarat	57